



10 Things Parents Need to Know About NIMAS and the USIMAC

#1 Accessible Instructional Material: The Legal Connection

- Provisions within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 require State and Local Education Agencies to ensure that textbooks and related core instructional materials are provided to students with print disabilities in specialized formats in a timely manner.

#2 What are Core Instructional Materials?

- Printed textbooks and related printed core materials published with the textbooks that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and that are required by State or Local Education agencies for use by students in the classroom.

#3 What are Specialized Formats?

- Specifically, they are: Braille, Large Print, Audio Files, or Digital (e-)Text.

#4 What is Timely Manner?

- Generally means "at the same time as other students receive their core instructional materials in print format."

#5 What is NIMAS?

- NIMAS is a national standard that uses XML files that can be readily transformed into student-ready specialized formats. The NIMAC is the National Instructional Material Access Center which is located in Louisville, Kentucky. The NIMAC houses all the NIMAS file-sets obtained from publishers of core instructional materials. These files are available, consistent with copyright law, for State and Local Education Agencies to download in order to produce accessible student-ready formats of instructional materials for eligible students.

#6 What is the USIMAC?

- The USIMAC is the Utah Instructional Materials Access Center. We opened our doors on January 9, 2009 with a mandate that we provide core instructional materials to the students of Utah in a timely manner. We work closely with the Braille Department at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind and have produced hundreds of books for the 2009/2010 school year in Braille, Large Print, DAISY, MP3, and e-Text formats. The USIMAC is also the only authorized user in Utah for the

NIMAC and we download NIMAS file-sets for eligible students to assist us in the timely production of instructional materials in these alternate formats.

#7 Who is Eligible to Receive Accessible Instructional Materials?

It is important to note: Not all students qualify to receive accessible instructional materials from all sources.

- Students who are eligible under the Copyright Act of 1931 as Amended are those who have been certified by a competent authority as unable to read printed materials because of:
 - Blindness
 - A Visual impairment
 - Physical limitations
 - An organic dysfunction
- Student who qualify as a student with a disability under IDEA 2004
- In cases of **blindness**, **visual disability**, or **physical limitations**, "competent authority" is defined to include doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, teachers, and superintendents).
- **Organic dysfunction** is defined as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner. In the case of a reading disability from **Organic dysfunction**, "competent authority" is defined as doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy.

#8 What is the Process to Obtain Core Instructional Materials in Alternate Formats for my Child or Student?

- Meet with IEP team or Section 504 team to determine what specialized formats are needed to help the student.
- The IEP team or Section 504 team fills out the eligibility form and request for materials form, which is available at the USIMAC website (www.usimac.org) and sends a request into the USIMAC to either obtain or produce a textbook in a particular specialized format for the qualified student.
- The USIMAC searches the NIMAC as well as other specialized format providers to see if the material is already available. If available, the material is purchased and sent to the school. If the material is not available, the USIMAC will assign the production of the material to its alternate format technicians for production in the requested format.
- The requested materials are sent back to the school for use by the student.

#9 Will the USIMAC accept an order for a student from a parent?

- The USIMAC is a collaborative effort between the Utah State Office of Education and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. We are not allowed to accept orders from parents. The application for service must go through the IEP team or Section 504 team process. Once the IEP team or the Section 504 team determines that a student needs our services, they will follow the procedures outlined in #8 (above) to ensure that your students' instructional materials are ordered and delivered in a timely manner.

#10 There are free resources out there for parents and teachers to access for their print-disabled student.

- You can go to BookShare at (www.bookshare.org) to sign your student up for refreshable Braille or DAISY books. This service is free for eligible students (if your child has a print disability and an IEP they should qualify.) BookShare has thousands of titles covering all grade levels. This is an excellent source of summer or after school reading material.
- You can go to Recordings for the Blind and the Dyslexic (RFB&D) (www.rfbd.org). They also have a program for eligible students (same criteria as for BookShare). They also have thousands of books in DAISY format or as e-text. One of the unique features of RFB&D is that their books do not use electronic voices; they are read by real people.
- The USIMAC website (www.usimac.org) has lots of quick links to free or inexpensive places that provide e-text books, text-to-speech readers, educational and fun websites for students or families.